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The Health of the City. By HOLLIS GODFREY. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1910. Pp. 372.)

Few questions are of more pressing importance at the present time than that of sanitation, especially in the great urban centers. Any book, therefore, that deals with this topic in a way that will appeal to the average citizen, that is free from technical scientific or medical terms, is valuable and needed. City dwellers, many of whom are ignorant or careless, and others of whom are opposed to public interference with what are considered private affairs, need to be aroused to the possibilities of scientific methods of safeguarding city health, and to the results of the application, in some cities at least, of such methods.

This book brings together the results of studies based largely upon the observation and investigation of actual conditions. Its chapters deal with such subjects as City Air, Water, Milk, Food, Ice, Noise, Waste, Plumbing, and City Housing. It discusses nuisances such as Smoke, Dust, Sewer Gas, and Noise. It shows the necessity of cleanliness and indicates the chief sources of infection in milk, food, water, and ice. It considers the relative values of different foods and the question of governmental regulation and inspection. The disposal of sewage, the danger from fire, and the evils of the slum are also included.

While some of these topics have been treated in a more satisfactory way by other authors, few single books combine so wide a survey of the conditions that threaten good health among city dwellers with so sane a discussion of the methods of prevention or improvement that may be applied as remedies. The chapters on Ice, Sewer-Gas and Plumbing, and The City's Noise, especially the latter, are particularly interesting, dealing as they do with less hackneyed subjects.

Many of the chapters contained in this book appeared originally, in a slightly different form, as magazine articles; and they combine, in a rather unusual way, attempts at literary style with semi-scientific material. In several cases the transition from the diction of the one point of view to that of the other is somewhat startling. On the whole, however, the book is a valuable and suggestive study of a phase of municipal life much neglected in America, and in sore need of serious consideration. The selected biography contained in the final chapter, and an excellent index, are among the most valuable features of the book.

RAYMOND GARFIELD GETTELL.